



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Burges et al.

Application No.: 09/879,734

Group Art Unit: 2161

Filed: June 12, 2001

Examiner: Not assigned

Title: Electronic Deposit Box System

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments and remarks into the file of this application prior to examination thereof:

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Amendments to Figs. 1-6(b) in red ink are submitted herewith for the Examiner's review and approval. Copies of all of the figures with Figs. 1-6(b) after amendment are also submitted herewith in the Submission of Formal Drawings.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as indicated in the attached Marked-Up Copy of Specification Sections with Amendments. In this attachment, material to be added is indicated by underlining. Also submitted herewith are substitute specification sections after the Amendments.

REMARKS

Figs. 1-5 have been amended to remove the text boxes framing the figures. The text in the lower boxes have been inserted in the specification as discussed below. Figs. 2-5 have also been amended to consistently use reference labels and numbers appearing in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 has been further amended to more clearly indicate the arrows showing "confirmation sent to

AA" as disclosed on original Fig. 3. Figs. 6(a) and 6(b) have been amended to abbreviate "certificate registration" thereon. The amendments to Figs. 1-6(b) are clearly supported by the originally filed drawings, so that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

The amendments to the specification sections on pages 6 and 7 place the text from Figs. 1-5 in the appropriate figure descriptions, so no new matter is being added.

No fee is believed to be due for this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted

Date: 9-12-01



Granetta M. Coleman (Reg. No. 39,638)
Attorney for Applicants

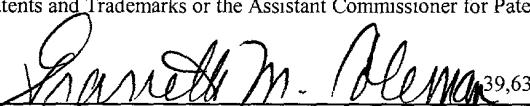
The H.T. Than Law Group
3201 New Mexico Ave., N.W. Suite 350
Washington, D.C. 20016
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GMC/rc
Enclosures

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in the envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks or the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 16, 2001.

Granetta M. Coleman
(Name)


(Signature)

39,638
(Reg. No.)

9-12-01
(Date of Signature)

Marked-Up Copy of Specification Sections with Amendments

Page 6, lines 27-30:

Figure 1 a schematic representation of an electronic security/tender box system according to an embodiment of the present invention providing a Secure Electronic Deposit/Tender Box (SEDB) for an Account Holder (user or buyer) and AA's Application for a Tender Box is validated by the Electronic Signature Certificate issued;

Page 7, lines 1-20:

Figure 2 a schematic representation of the electronic security /tender box system of Figure 1 illustrating uploading of ITT (Invitation To Tender) documentation onto a newly created SEDB by an Account Holder and Tender Box sends SSL email to Tenderers once ITT deposited;

Figure 3 a schematic representation of the electronic security/tender box system of Figure 1 illustrating that after a predetermined date/time selected Invited Participants (further users or selected tenderers/suppliers) are able to access the ITT documentation stored on the SEDB and Tenderers purchase E-certificate, access and receive ITT using certificate and email confirmation sent to AA;

Figure 4 a schematic representation of the electronic security/tender box system of Figure 1 illustrating that selected tenderers upload their responses to the ITT onto the SEDB (also known as Tenders return completed ITT), and emails are sent notifying the Account Holder of this (also known as confirmation emails);

Figure 5 a schematic representation of the electronic security/tender box system of Figure 1 illustrating that after a predetermined date/time access to the documentation uploaded by the Invited Participants is granted to the Account Holder and the Account Holder is then able to download the documentation, the Invited Participants being notified by email of this, AA extracts ITT's after the appointed time, and email confirming sent to tenders;

Clean Copy of Specification Replacement Sections After Amendments

Page 6, lines 27-30:

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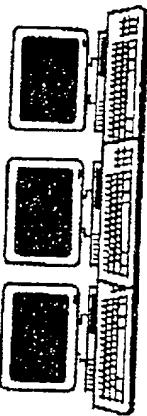
Figure 5 a schematic representation of the electronic security/tender box system of Figure 1 illustrating that after a predetermined date/time access to the documentation uploaded by the Invited Participants is granted to the Account Holder and the Account Holder is then able to download the documentation, the Invited Participants being notified by email of this, AA extracts ITT's after the appointed time, and email confirming sent to tenders;

Vault Operation

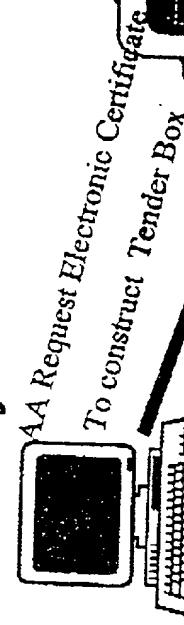
16.1

(User) \leq
Awarding
Authority

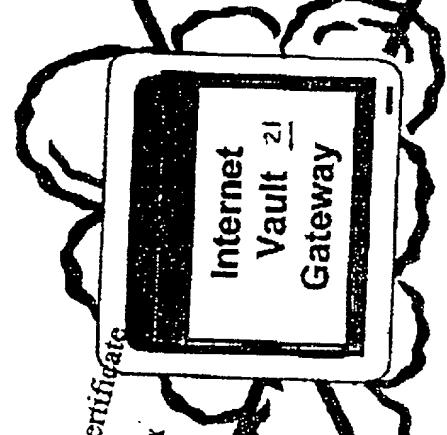
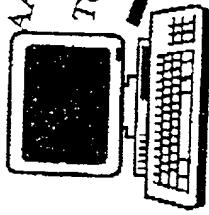
Selected Tenderers (Future users)



Vault Secure
Operations Centre



AA Request Electronic Certificate
To construct Tender Box



15

Certificate
Issuance
Centre



Vault Administrator

25



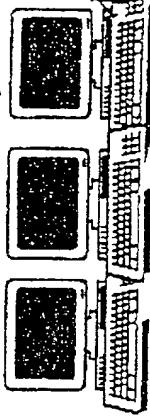
Secure Tender
Boxes 3c

2c
AA's Application for a Tender Box is validated by the Electronic Signature Certificate issued

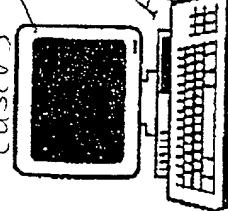
2c
AA's Application for a Tender Box is validated by the Electronic Signature Certificate issued

Vault Operation

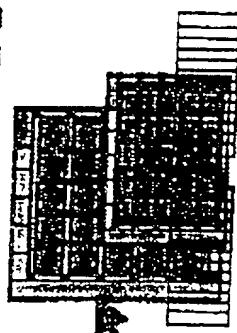
Fig. 2
Selected Tenderers
(Final Users)



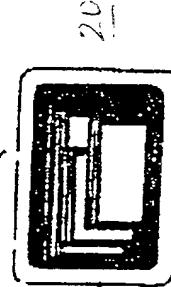
Awarding
Authority
(User)



Vault Secure
Operations Centre



Certificate
Issuance
Centre



Vault Administrator

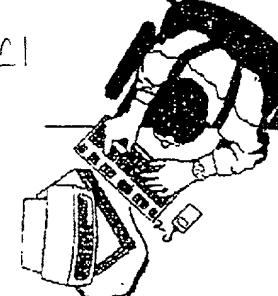
Secure Tender
Boxes 3D

Tender Box Sends SSL Email to Tenderers Once ITT Deposited

2/14

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21

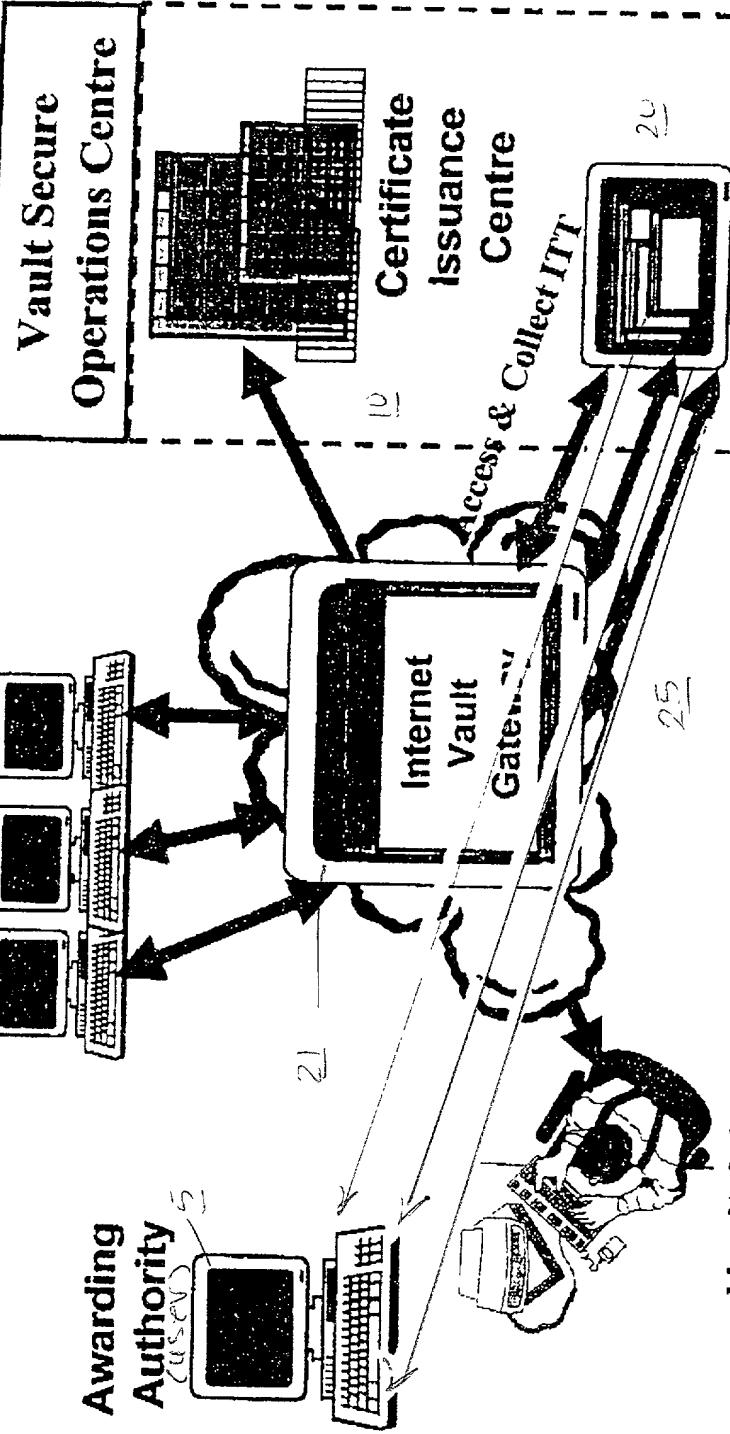


Vault Operation

Fig. 3

Selected Tenderers
(Buyer User)

Awarding
Authority
(Seller)



Vault Administrator

Secure Tender
Boxes

Tenderers Purchase E-Certificate Access & Receive
Issuing Certificate Email Confirmation Sent to AA

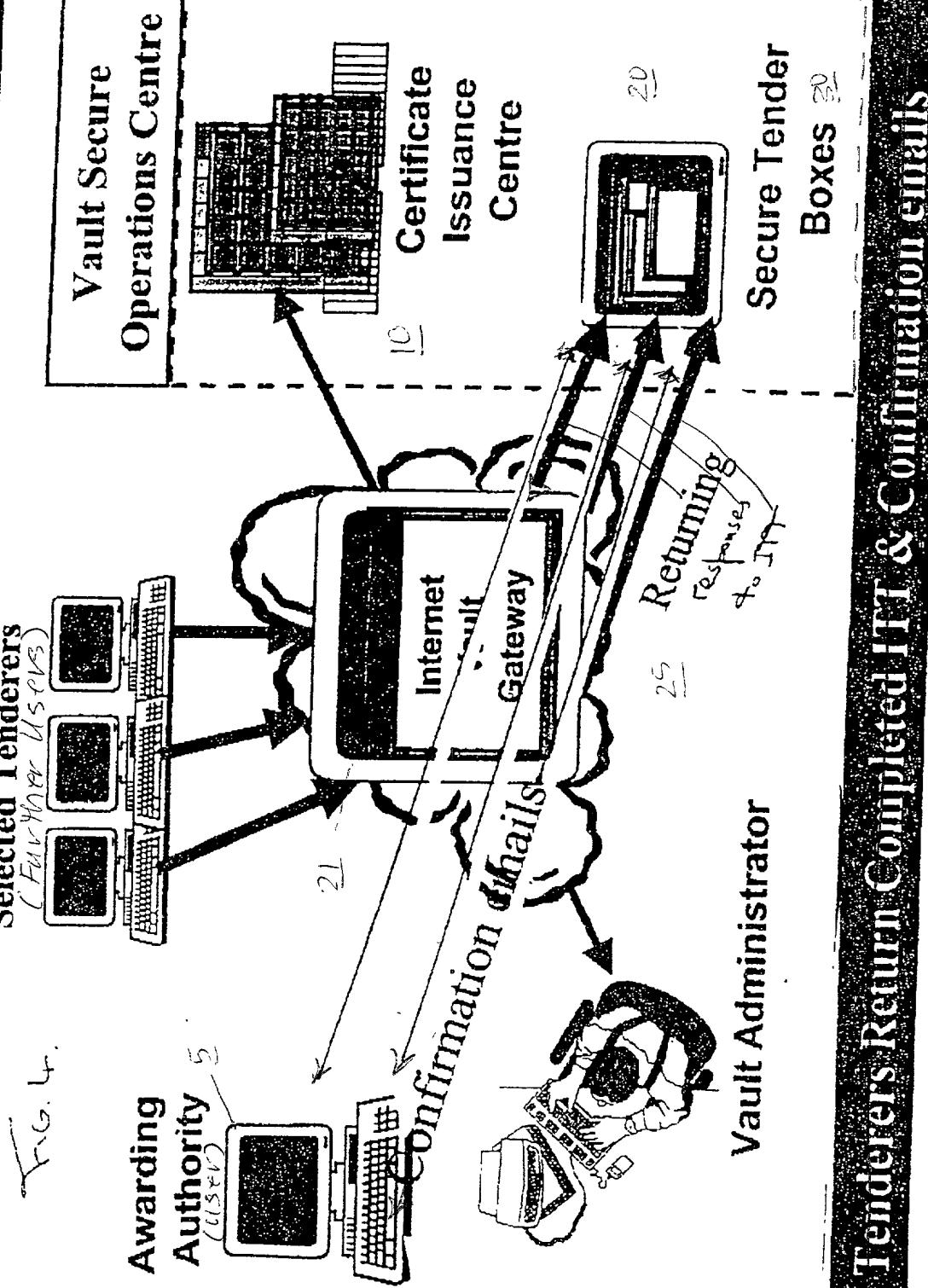
3/14

Vault Operation

Selected Tenderers
(Funderer U/Serv)

F.G. 4.

Awarding Authority
(U.S.E.V)



Tenderers Return Completed IFT & Confirmation emails

Vault Administrator

Secure Tender Boxes

F-14

Vault Operation

Selected Tenderers
(Further Users)

Awarding Authority
(Users)

Vault Secure Operations Centre

Certificate Issuance Centre

Secure Tender Boxes

Vault Administrator

VA Extracts ITT's after the Appointed Time.
Email confirming sent to tenderers

Email Notification

Internet Vault Gateway

Completed ITTs

